

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 025003
ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: D/LOS:RSKATZ

APPROVED BY: D/LOS:RSKATZ

-----100564 311425Z /43

R 310340Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS 3979

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025003

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS LONDON
OTTAWA ROME THE HAGUE TOKYO FROM MOSCOW DTD 27 JAN 1978 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA MEETING OF "LIKE-MINDED" COUNTRIES, JAN 23

BEGIN SUMMARY. JANUARY 23 MEETING OF "LIKE-MINDED" COUNTRIES
TOOK UP FRENCH AMENDMENTS TO PART XI OF THE ICNT AND THEIR
SUGGESTED "MINI-TREATY." RESPONSE TO BOTH DOCUMENTS WAS
GENERALLY COOL. "LIKE-MINDED" EXPERTS WILL MEET ON FRINGES
OF INTERSESSIONAL TO CONTINUE WORK ON AMENDMENTS. "MINI-
TREATY" PROPOSALS WILL BE PUT ON ICE AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS
IN UNCLOS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE "LIKE-MINDED" COUNTRIES MET JANUARY 23 IN PARIS. THE
SESSION, CHAIRED BY FRANCE, WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES
FROM THE UK, FRG, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, JAPAN, AND THE
US. CANADA WAS LISTED AS AN "OBSERVER" AT ITS REQUEST
BUT PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE MEETING.

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2. OST OF THE DISCUSSION CENTERED ON A SET OF POSSIBLE
AMENDMENTS TO PART XI OF THE ICNT PREPARED BY THE FRENCH
DELEGATION. REACTION TO THE FRENCH AMENDMENTS WAS
GENERALLY COOL, WITH PARTICULAR SKEPTICISM BEING DIRECTED
AT THEIR PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE REGIME A VERY TEMPORARY ONE
BY INVITING REVIEW AFTER ONLY TEN YEARS. BOTH THE DESIR-
ABILITY OF SUCH A SHORT PERIOD AND ITS NEGOTIABILITY IN

UNCLOS WERE STRONGLY QUESTIONED BY THE UK, FRG AND US. THE FRENCH ALSO PROPOSED THAT THERE BE NO PRODUCTION LIMITATION, ITS FUNCTION BEING PERFORMED INSTEAD BY A SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION FOR DEVELOPING LAND-BASED PRODUCERS. THIS IDEA WAS PRAISED AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE BY ALL DELEGATIONS EXCEPT CANADA, BUT DOUBTS ABOUT ITS NEGOTIABILITY WERE WIDESPRED.

3. IT WAS DECIDED THAT EXPERTS FROM THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS WOULD WORK ON A SET OF TEXTS TO THE RIGHT OF THE ICNT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK FEBRUARY 6-17. THE US REP (AMB. ALDRICH) WARNED, AND OTHERS AGREED, THAT THESE TEXTS SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED AS A PACKAGE THAT WOULD BE A TARGET FOR THE G-77, BUT SHOULD INSTEAD BE DRAWN UPON SUBJECT BY SUBJECT AS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL AND THE SEVENTH SESSION.

4. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION AT THE END OF THE DAY OF THE FRENCH "MINI-TCEATY" DRAFT. IT WAS AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE PUT ASIDE FOR THE PRESENT. MATLOCKUNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE025003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/LOS:RSKATZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780046-0146
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978012/aaaaabpj.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d13f09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3710084
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAW OF THE SEA MEETING OF \"LIKE-MINDED\" COUNTRIES, JAN 23 BEGIN SUMMARY. JANUARY 23 MEETING OF \"LIKE-MINDED\" COUNTRIES TOOK UP FRENCH AMENDMENTS TO PART XI OF THE ICNT A
TAGS: PLOS, FR
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d13f09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014